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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,067	08/20/2001	Steve Brandstetter	P/94-1	6703

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02/21/2007

EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/933,067	Applicant(s) BRANDSTETTER ET AL.	
	Examiner Corbett B. Coburn	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-13 and 16-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-13 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the ticket with name & address and bin for drawing as well as the drawing website must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

Art Unit: 3714

pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. A website is a virtual construct that has no physical existence – it exists merely as a stream of bits on a computer. The tickets & bin of claim 19 are physical. It is impossible to conduct a drawing of physical lottery tickets on a website that exists only in the virtual world. Examiner interprets this claim to mean that the results of the lottery drawing are displayed on a website.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-6, 9, 12, & 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuniewicz (US Patent Number 6,585,589) in view of Quinn (US Patent Number 3,688,276).

Claim 1: Okuniewicz teaches device for paying out a bonus (Col 1, 43-46) to a player playing a gaming machine. (Fig 1) There is a gaming machine (Slot Machine). The gaming machine obviously contains a processor for implementing a game of chance (including video poker) and paying off according to matching symbols. (Col 1, 20) There is a dispensing unit (Lottery Terminal). Since Okuniewicz teaches that the dispensing

Art Unit: 3714

unit may dispense a ticket when a preset amount of coins are inserted (Col 3, 46-53), there must be a numeric counter for counting the number of coins placed in said gaming machine that counts coins until a ticket is generated. Okuniewicz does not teach visually displaying to the player the number of coins needed to generate a ticket or the number of coins inserted by the player. Nor does Okuniewicz teach resetting the counted coins to zero once a ticket is generated. These are common functions on virtually any modern vending machine.

Quinn, which is also a lottery ticket dispenser, teaches visually displaying to the player the number of coins needed to generate a ticket and the number of coins inserted by the player as well as resetting the counted coins to zero once a ticket is generated. (Fig 1) Such a visible meter allows the player to know how much money he must insert and how much money he has inserted. Clearing the counter lets the player know that if he wants another ticket, he has to put in more money. These features add to user convenience and are, as previously pointed out, extremely well known. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Okuniewicz in view of Quinn to visually display to the player the number of coins needed to generate a ticket and the number of coins inserted by the player as well as to reset the counted coins to zero once a ticket is generated in order to add to player convenience.

Claims 2-4: Okuniewicz teaches that the dispensing unit may be a retrofit unit for a slot machine (Col 3, 1-4). Okuniewicz teaches that the dispensing unit could be attached to the gaming machine externally (i.e., side-mounted) or mounted internally. (Col 4, 63-66)

Art Unit: 3714

Claim 5: The gaming machine may include video poker machines (Col 3, 36-42). Video bingo games and video keno games are disclosed as equivalents.

Claim 6: The dispensing unit is a self-contained unit that does not affect play or outcome of said gaming machine. (Col 4, 35-43)

Claim 9: Okuniewicz dispenses lottery tickets. (Abstract)

Claim 12: Claim 12 is a combination of claims 1, 5, & 9 with the addition of holding a drawing to determine a winner of said ticket – which is taught by Okuniewicz.

Claim 16: Okuniewicz teaches the lottery ticket may be for the Big Game. In the Big Game, a bonus prize is generated from a percentage of total coins placed into all participating gaming machines (i.e., a percentage of money used to buy game tickets).

Claim 17: Claim 17 is a subset of claim 1.

Claim 19: It is extremely well known to. This practice has been followed in raffles and lotteries across the country (and probably around the world) for decades if not centuries. Applicant cannot even begin to imagine that he has invented this method of conducting a lottery. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Okuniewicz & Quinn to include placing the entrant's name & address on a ticket & place the ticket in a bin for drawing in order to adopt an extremely old and well known method of conducting a lottery.

6. Claims 7, 8, 11, 13 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuniewicz and Quinn as applied to claim 1, 12 above, and further in view of Castellano et al. (US Patent Number 5,477,952).

Claims 7, 13: Okuniewicz and Quinn teach the invention substantially as claimed. Both

Art Unit: 3714

contain coin counters, but do not give details of the operation thereof. Okuniewicz bonuses a player based on number of coins played (Col 3, 51) but does not teach that the numeric counter counts coin pulses off of the gaming machine's hard meter. Castellano teaches the method of operation of the coin counters. Castellano teaches that the numeric counter (12) counts coin pulses off of the gaming machine's hard meter (52). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Okuniewicz and Quinn in view of Castellano to have the numeric counter count coin pulses off of the gaming machine's hard meter in order to carry out Okuniewicz and Quinn's suggestion to count the coins entered by the player.

Claim 8: Okuniewicz and Quinn teach the invention substantially as claimed. Neither specifically discloses that the numeric counter can count various coin denominations. Castellano specifically teaches discloses that the numeric counter can count various coin denominations. (Fig 1, 21-24) Allowing players to use more than one denomination makes it convenient for the player to put more money in the slot machine. This increases profits. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Okuniewicz and Quinn in view of Castellano to have the numeric counter can count various coin denominations in order to make it convenient for the player to put more money in the slot machine.

Claims 11, 18: Okuniewicz teaches that the benefit of the device is the ability to change the criteria for generating a ticket. (Col 3, 1-9) The LIB is a remote unit (i.e., a separate module) for changing the number of coins necessary to generate said ticket.

Art Unit: 3714

7. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuniewicz & Quinn as applied to claim 20 and further in view of <http://www.powerball.com>.

Claim 20: Okuniewicz & Quinn teach the invention substantially as claimed, but fail to teach announcing the lottery results on a website. This is extremely well known in the art. The Powerball lottery results have been announced on a website since at least 28 January 1998. (See

<http://web.archive.org/wbe/19980128120719/www.musl.com/scripts/html.pl?powerball.p>
[tm](http://www.powerball.com)) Announcing the results of a lottery on a website provides a cost effective means of disseminating the results. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Okuniewicz & Quinn in view of <http://www.powerball.com> to announce the lottery results on a website in order to have a cost effective way to disseminate the results.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 27 November 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
9. Applicant has appended a paragraph to his repetition of the previous office action about counting coins that is, perhaps, intended to address Examiner's arguments about whether or not it would be obvious to post a payable, but no argument is presented on that head. Applicant then makes an erroneous statement that a player could not place 6 coins in a slot machine that has already had 14 coins inserted and receive a ticket. This "argument" has been addressed in the rejections and in previous arguments. Okuniewicz teaches dispensing a ticket after a certain

Art Unit: 3714

number of coins has been paid in. If that number is 20, and 14 coins have been paid in, when 6 more coins are paid in, a ticket will be dispensed.

10. We are entering the 5th calendar year of prosecution on this case. This is the 6th RCE. Applicant has been supplied references from the 1930's and the 1970's that teach the essentials of Applicant's invention – should Applicant write the claims in such a manner as to specifically describe the invention. In the latest RCE, Applicant claims features that Applicant cannot possibly imagine that he has invented in an effort to keep the case pending before the Office. Applicant knows full well that placing raffle tickets in a bin or drum is not new. Nor is announcing lottery results on a website. These amendments cannot have been intended to advance prosecution toward issue of a patent. Their purpose must merely be to keep the case pending.

11. The Patent Office has a significant backlog of cases. The Office is working diligently to reduce this backlog. But applicants bear some responsibility for helping us to reduce pendency. The Office has proposed rules to reduce the number of RCE requests applicants can file in order to prevent situations like that seen in this case. While many see this as a drastic step, many others support the notion as a way to keep hopeless cases from lingering at the Office and contributing to the backlog.

12. In order to help bring the prosecution of this case to an end, Applicant is urged to consider (1) abandonment, (2) appeal, or (3) submission of evidence of secondary considerations.

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. This is an RCE of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/933,067. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

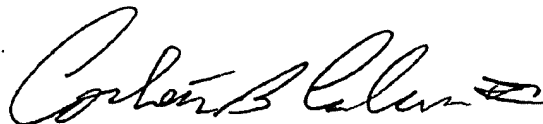
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Corbett B. Coburn

Application/Control Number: 09/933,067

Page 11

Art Unit: 3714

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 3714